

INAUGURATES FIGHT AGAINST BLINDNESS

Macfarland Asks for Report on Cases Among Infants.

PROPOSES TO ADOPT NEW REGULATIONS

Large Percentage Can Be Prevented by Prompt Treatment of Inflammation.

With a view of adopting regulations governing the subject, Commissioner Macfarland has called upon the Health Officer for a report on the prevention of blindness due to inflammation in the eyes of children at the time of birth. That blindness can be prevented in many instances by proper precautions is the opinion of the leading medical authorities. The subject at present is one of widespread agitation, in which the District will take a leading part.

"The agitation for the prevention of blindness, by which is ordinarily understood the prevention of such blindness as is due to diseases of the eyes occurring at the time of or shortly after birth, bids fair to rival in its territorial extent, if not in its magnitude, the agitation for the spread of consumption," says Dr. Woodward.

Causes of Blindness.

"It is not commonly known that a considerable part of all blindness is due to an inflammation of the eyes occurring at the time of birth. This inflammation can be avoided in nearly all cases by proper care at the time of birth. But while a considerable part of all blindness is due to causes arising at the time of birth, yet the number of children who become blind from this cause is, as compared with the entire number of children born, so insignificant as to render the average midwife forgetful of the grave results that may follow the neglect of preventive measures with respect to the matter, and the medical profession taken as a whole has not been free from criticism with respect thereto.

"As a reminder, for some time past there has been printed on the cover of the books containing blank forms for reporting births, that are issued to registered physicians and midwives, the following statement:

"The Health Officer desires to call attention to the widespread agitation that is now going on with respect to the prevention of such blindness as arises from inflammation of the eyes of new-born children. Aside from the importance of preventing such blindness as a public duty, the fact that the city is becoming aware that the adoption of proper measures at the time of birth may prevent such a catastrophe renders it peculiarly important that physicians and nurses in their own interest, adopt in their practice, if they have not already done so, such measures as have the support of the medical profession for the prevention of such loss of eyesight."

Printed Instructions.

"The department now has under consideration the advisability of issuing to nurses of the city printed instructions as to the precautions that should be taken to prevent blindness arising from inflammation of the eyes at the time of birth, and by physicians in the families of persons who are unable to pay for medicines, the remedy generally regarded as the best for the prevention of this trouble. In order that the administration of the remedy to be so advised in such cases might be most carefully made, the Washington Obstetrical and Gynecological Society has been asked to consider the subject and give the Health Officer its views with respect thereto.

"Only recently there was brought to the attention of the Health Officer a case in which the child's eyes became inflamed, and the nurse in charge had undertaken to treat the difficulty as an ordinary 'cold in the eyes.' Fortunately the case came under the observation of a trained nurse in the service of the Instructive Visiting Nurse Society, who was familiar with diseases of the eyes among children, and through her efforts the case was promptly brought to the attention of a physician.

"As a result of her prompt action it seems likely that the child will lose only one eye. The other will probably be merely badly damaged. In some States it is necessary to report all cases of inflammation of the eyes of babies at the time of birth, to some responsible physician or to the health officer in order that such disaster may be prevented."

START OF WELLMAN IS DELAYED AGAIN

Finds Airship House at Spitzbergen Destroyed and One of Watchman Dead.

THOMSON, Norway, June 28.—One man dead and the airship house a wreck with a prospect of further postponement, is the tale told by the employees of the Wellman Arctic expedition who returned to this place with the body of Knud Johnson, from Spitzbergen, and will carry back materials with which to make repairs.

Johnson was one of the two men left at Spitzbergen by Mr. Wellman last year to look out for the material stored at that place. Paul Bjorvick, the other man, met Mr. Wellman and his party when they arrived at Spitzbergen a few days ago with the story of the death of Johnson, who fell into a crevasse in the pack ice, and of the destruction of the balloon house, which was blown over by a gale on Christmas day.

Mr. Wellman does not yet know whether the damage done can be repaired in time to make a start this year. He will do his utmost and has ordered that supplies be rushed to headquarters as rapidly as possible, so that the work of repair can be done at once.

MISS JEWETT'S FUNERAL. SOUTH BERWICK, Me., June 28.—The funeral of Miss Sarah Orne Jewett, the author, held in her old home, was marked by the dignity and simplicity which characterized her life and her writings. The body lay in the casket in the front parlor and the people, invited from the pulpit of each church of the village, came to pay their last respects. In previous years they had come to mark the passing of her parents and of her grandparents in the same old mansion.

CHURCH PICNIC. The West Washington Baptist Church will hold its annual picnic at Great Falls July 8.

FORGER POINTS OUT PLANS HE EMPLOYED

Fleeing Harms Tells Firm How to Forestall Attempts to Work Scheme He Used to Steal 1,637 Pounds.

NEW YORK, June 28.—After forging a check for \$1,637 1/4 on J. S. Bach & Co., brokers, and escaping to London, Conrad Harms, wrote a letter to his former employers, telling them if they would agree not to prosecute him, he would accept money he had stolen as a loan and pay it back in installments, with 5 per cent interest. He concluded his letter by pointing out to his employers a system of bookkeeping whereby the firm could prevent a similar theft in the future.

The firm accepted the new system of bookkeeping, but put the theft into the hands of the district attorney's office, with the result that Scotland Yard detectives arrested Harms in London today.

Detectives will go to London to bring

him back. Harms has been indicted in New York for forgery and grand larceny. Harms' method was clever. He stole one of the firm's checks and forged the firm's signature, drawing on the Swiss Bankers, of London, for the amount, and ordered them to place the money to his own credit at Parr's Bank in London.

He also stole a certified letter of confirmation, which he sent to the Swiss Bankers, having secured by his shrewd move the real signature of the Bachs firm to this confirmation. Harms then had the Parr's Bank cable 2100 to James Gordon, a New York attorney, from whom he secured the money as a representative of the Bachs.

With this \$100 he went to London, and secured \$1,400 more from Parr's Bank.

ANYTHING EXCUSED ON DAY LIKE FRIDAY

Judge Mullowny Refuses to Fine Men Arrested for Sitting on Base of Statues in Parks—Only Two Are Tried.

The regulation which forbids men from sitting on the bases of the statues in the various parks in the city is not regarded very favorably by Judge Mullowny of the Police Court.

Of the fifteen men arrested for resting on the base of General Hancock's statue yesterday, only two were tried by the judge, and he placed them under personal bond only, and bade them go and sin no more.

Eleven of the men thus caught forfeited \$2 bond rather than face a trial at the Police Court. The cases against

Howard Riley and H. L. Touell were dismissed without a trial, and Thomas Enright and Jacob Seaman were the two placed under personal bond.

Judge Mullowny said there was no good reason why men on a hot day might not stop in the parks to rest. He thought about anything was excusable in a man on such a day as yesterday. Enright told the judge that he had stopped at the Hancock statue in order to meet a man with whom he had an engagement. While waiting, he sat down to rest, being ignorant of a regulation which would prevent it.

HORSE THIEF SHOT.

MABEN, Miss., June 28.—A negro horse thief was taken from officers near here and shot to death. He had twice escaped jail in two days and was found in a thick, still country with chains and handcuffs. He had ridden fifty miles in four hours in making his escape.

MEET GOMPERS.

LONDON, June 28.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, landed from the steamer Baltic at Holyhead and arrived in London at 1 o'clock today. He was met by David J. Shaoktody and James A. Seddon, both members of the house of commons, and other labor leaders.

BAT MAIMS MANAGER.

TRENTON, June 28.—Standing on the line between the home plate and third base, Herbert Collier, manager of the Collier baseball nine, was struck full in the mouth with the big end of a bat that slipped from the hands of a player. The blow tore down the five of Collier's teeth and cut a great gash in his lip.

GROUND TO DEATH.

ORANGE, N. J., June 28.—J. Frank Hawkins, eighty-eight, former editor of the New Jersey Standard, of Red Bank, was ground to death today at the Grove street station of the Lackawanna railroad. It is claimed that he was jolted from the car steps as the train stopped.

LAW BEING OBEYED, SAYS COMMISSION

Reply to "Scandalous and Slandorous" Criticism Is Refused.

McILHENNY TALKS OF ACTION TAKEN

No Reply Made to Attack on Civil Service Apportionment of Employees.

The Civil Service Commission is saying nothing, but there is every indication that it is carrying a big stick in store for the gentleman who stirred up the mess regarding apportionment of employees in accordance with the population of the various States, while commenting on the promised dismissal of 10 per cent of the employees of the Department of Commerce and Labor for inefficiency.

"The dismissal or demotion of inefficient employees in the executive departments is directly in line with the letter and spirit of the law as well as the principal of civil service," declared Civil Service Commissioner John A. McIlhenney this morning, when asked for a statement of the differences between the commission and the Department of Commerce and Labor.

No More to Say.

Beyond this Mr. McIlhenney would make no comment whatsoever, nor would he discuss the situation except to assert that there was no difference whatever between the Department of Commerce and Labor and the Civil Service Commission and in the nature of things there could be no difference.

President John C. Black, of the Civil Service Commission, was not so reluctant as his colleague, however, although his statement of the situation was most concise. "I can make no statement in reply to such a general scandalous and slanderous attack on the commission, nor can I discuss the situation except to assert that there is no difference whatever between the department and the commission. The dismissal of employees by a department head is something over which the commission has absolutely nothing to do. Whether or not he retains an employee in his department is entirely within the discretion of the department head, and we have nothing to do with it, unless the employee should happen to be dismissed for well authenticated political or religious reasons."

The Criticism.

The criticism of the Civil Service Commission, which caused the statements from the members of the commission, was made in connection with comment on the efficiency of the employees of the Department of Commerce and Labor and discovered through a series of reports from bureau chiefs and on which is based the announcement that about 10 per cent of the employees will be dismissed. The work of the

SUGGESTS FIREMEN AID STRICKEN HORSES

N. H. Louder Tells Commissioners That Buckets and Sponges Should Be Kept at All Stations to Minister to Teams During Hot Weather.

That the firemen at the various fire stations be equipped with buckets and sponges, and directed to minister to passing teams, is the suggestion made to the Commissioners by W. H. Louder, of 1704 Wisconsin avenue.

"During the summer months in Massachusetts," writes Mr. Louder, "firemen stand in front of their respective

stations with hose, sponges, water buckets, and ginger. When a team comes along, tired and hot, these men take charge and in five minutes a great change is noticeable."

commission was a farce, that it furnished inefficient men and women for the Government service and that it openly, flagrantly, and daily violated the law, especially in the matter of apportionment of appointments. The District of Columbia, the critic stated, had 2,400 per cent more clerks than its population warranted under the law. Other States were in the same class as the District.

The records of the Civil Service Commission as obtained this morning show that on June 28 at noon there were 23 clerks and employees from the District of Columbia in the Government service here who came within the provisions of the apportionment act, and that the apportionment for the District was twenty-eight. The excess is the result of years of appointment to positions for which there were no applicants except from the District, the civil service officials stated, almost twenty-five years, to be exact.

McHarg's Part.

Assistant Secretary McHarg, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, was the official, who made the announcement regarding the dismissals, based upon an investigation of the personnel of the department conducted by him at the request of Secretary Nagel. The reports were the usual efficiency reports which the law has required for several years. Mr. McHarg said, only instead of filing them away Secretary Nagel intend to act upon them and to place the department on a business basis.

Mr. McHarg said he made no comment on the Civil Service Commission, and would not do so as he did not know the members nor was he familiar enough with the law to criticize. He expressed surprise at the comment that has been made regarding the prospective dismissals from his department.



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Dr. J. S. Alexander, of Omaha, Neb., says: "A medicine so valuable and beneficial for children as your Castoria is, deserves the highest praise. I find it in use everywhere."

Dr. J. A. McClellan, of Buffalo, N. Y., says: "I have frequently prescribed your Castoria for children and always got good results. In fact I use Castoria for my own children."

Dr. J. W. Allen, of St. Louis, Mo., says: "I heartily endorse your Castoria. I have frequently prescribed it in my medical practice, and have always found it to do all that is claimed for it."

Dr. C. H. Glidden, of St. Paul, Minn., says: "My experience as a practitioner with your Castoria has been highly satisfactory, and I consider it an excellent remedy for the young."

Dr. H. D. Benner, of Philadelphia, Pa., says: "I have used your Castoria as a purgative in the cases of children for years past with the most happy effect, and fully endorse it as a safe remedy."

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